

Mr. T. K. Nayar (*Pazhayannur*): And about taking licenses?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): Government can exempt anybody from taking out licenses.

Mr. T. K. Nayar (*Pazhayannur*): Why not apply the same provision here also?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): In the present case, it is more allied to the tolls.

Mr. T. K. Nayar (*Pazhayannur*): If it is landing fees, one can understand. It is simply to save the prestige of the Government. But, for the license fee, I do not think there is any justification. Why not the Government reconsider this matter?

Mr. M. K. Devassy (*Adur*): Will the Government have any objection to refer this matter to the Select Committee?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): I will reconsider the position and then discuss the matter on another occasion in this very Council. This is not after all a very urgent matter.

Mr. T. K. Nayar (*Pazhayannur*): I move that the consideration of this Bill be postponed to the next sitting of the Council.

The motion was unanimously carried.

The Cochin Rubber Control Act (Amendment) Bill

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): I beg leave to introduce the Cochin Rubber Control Act (Amendment) Bill in Council. The Objects and Reasons have already been stated. The purpose is to bring this legislation in line with the revised agreement in accordance with the recommendations of the International Rubber Regulation Committee.

***Mr. V. J. Mathai** (*Planters*): I second it. In rising to second this Bill, my desire is to bring to the notice of this Hon'ble House certain facts which ought to be borne in this connection. Our benign Government have been pleased to extend their fullest support to the cause of the planters in the matter of the prevention of the importation of uncoupons Burma rubber. And in that connection in kind consideration of the resolution which I brought before this House twice, the Government has given through the words of the Hon'ble Secretary to Government that the Government brought to the notice of the Government of India three points. I am quoting from the reply that was given by the Hon'ble Secretary on 19th January

**Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member*

THE COCHIN RUBBER CONTROL ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1227

1940. The three points, (i) the necessity for the prevention of the importation of uncouponed Burma rubber into India (ii) to enlarge the basic quota in fact, I am concerned with all the three. They are (i) the need for increasing the basic quota, (ii) restriction of the import of uncouponed Burma rubber, and (iii) expansion of the area under cultivation. I am not going to trouble this House, especially after a full discussion on the question, I am not going to trouble with all the points. I shall deal with the second point, regarding the import of uncouponed Burma rubber?

Deputy President: Has this anything to do with the uncouponed rubber.

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): No, nothing to do.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): I request the Chair to show me some latitude. I may assure the chair that I may not take more than five minutes.

Deputy President: But has this any bearing on the Bill?

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): I may be kindly permitted to make certain observations in supporting this Bill. The point I am concerned directly with is that the agitation in this behalf has reached a particular point. The history of the agitation has been that this Government held up this Bill. Our Government refused to extend the life of the Rubber Control Act, because our needs were not satisfied by the Government of India. Therefore our Diwan represented to the Government of India that we are not going to extend the life of the enactment through the Legislative Council, but that we are going to extend the life a little through a Proclamation. Therefore a Proclamation was issued by His Highness that the life of that Act will be extended temporarily. That is the position as it stands. Now the point is this. While we are now through the Legislative Council giving further strength to the Rubber Control Act, our Government might still pursue the vigorous advocacy of the planters in the matter of the prevention of the import of uncouponed Burma Rubber into India. I would rather sit down by now proclaiming to this House and to the Government that in the *Madras Mail*, dated 1st April 1940, there are welcome news to the planters. "The Government of Burma today gave notice to the Government of India of the termination of the Indo-Burma Trade Regulation Order. Under the terms of the Indo-Burma Trade Regulation Order, one years' notice of termination is required and the order is therefore due to expire on March 1, 1941."

The Indo-Burma Trade Regulation Order came into force on April 1, 1937 and was intended to provide for the regulation of trade between India and Burma following the separation of the two countries. It was to remain in force for three years, *viz.*, up to 31st March 1940, or for one year after giving notice whichever was the longer period.

The latter alternative has been adopted and the order is therefore now due to elapse on March 31, 1940." And therefrom arises another necessity. In spite of our repeated requisitions the Government of India refused to give notice of termination of the order. But the Government of Burma for obvious reasons as I once stated disliked certain conditions of the order. They have now given termination notice. Therefore, we will be free to bring forward our necessities at the time of the renewal of the Indo-Burma Trade Regulation Order whether it be an order in Council or otherwise. I will only impress upon the Government the necessity for pressing once more, over and over again, when the time for termination expires, the necessity for an unqualified restriction of the importation of Burma rubber.

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): Government is doing whatever is possible to achieve this. Government have moved the Government of India in this matter. Only it will take some time. That is all.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): All planters are thankful to the Government.

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): I beg to move that the Bill may be read in Council.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*): I second it.

Motion put and carried

Secretary to the Council: The title of the Bill is the Cochin Rubber Control Act (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): I beg to move that S. O. 32 may be suspended and the Bill be taken up for consideration.

Deputy President: The Standing Order is suspended.

Motion put and carried

Clauses 2 to 16 put and carried

Clause 1 put and carried

Title and preamble put and carried

Mr. P. J. George (*Joint Secretary to Government*): I beg to move that this Bill be taken up and finally passed day after tomorrow.